

IDW
50
COVER A

SONIC™

THE HEDGEHOG



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SEGA®



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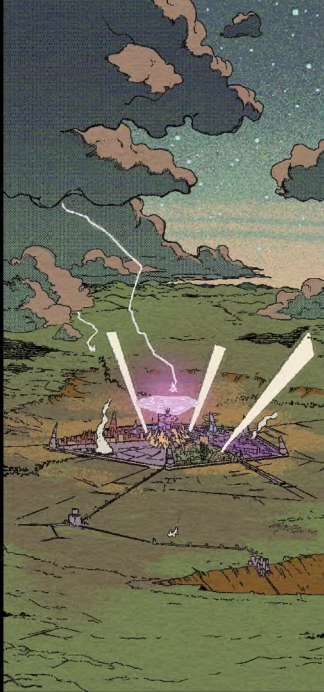
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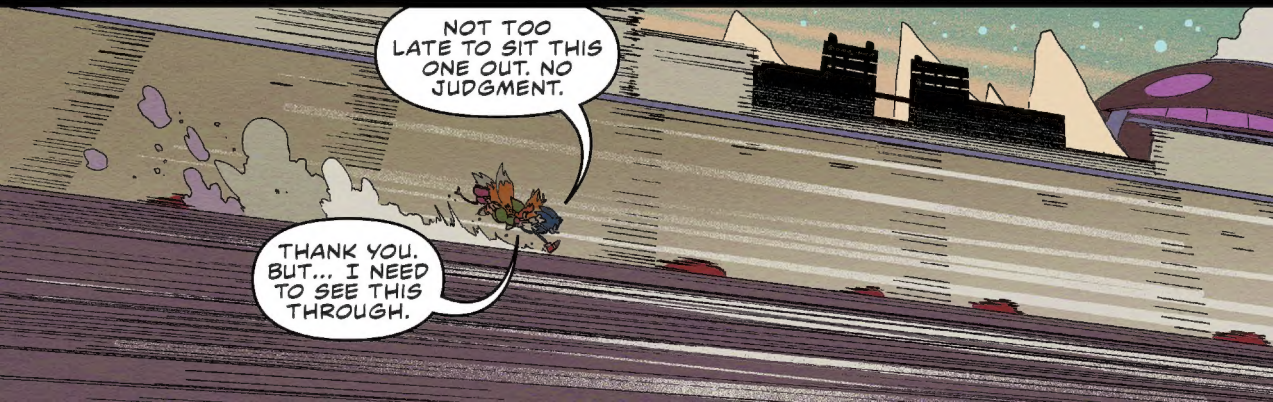


WHY WOULD EGGMAN MAKE SUCH A BIG DEAL ABOUT SUMMONING ALL THESE BADNIKS?

THE GUY LIKES TO MAKE A BIG PRESENTATION. CAN'T FAULT HIM FOR THAT!



YEAH, BUT... DOESN'T IT USUALLY COME WITH SOME KIND OF DECLARATION?



NOT TOO LATE TO SIT THIS ONE OUT. NO JUDGMENT.

THANK YOU, BUT... I NEED TO SEE THIS THROUGH.







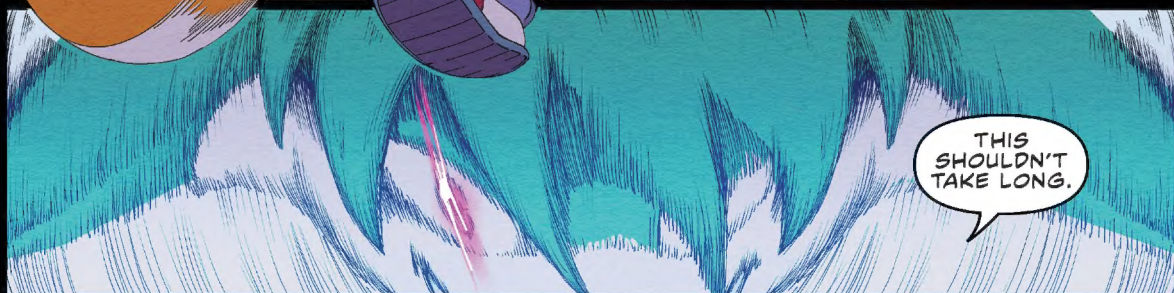
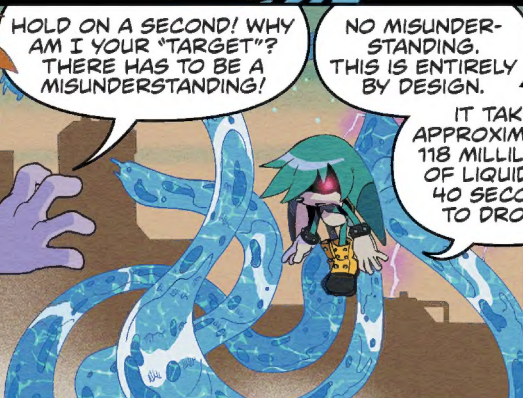


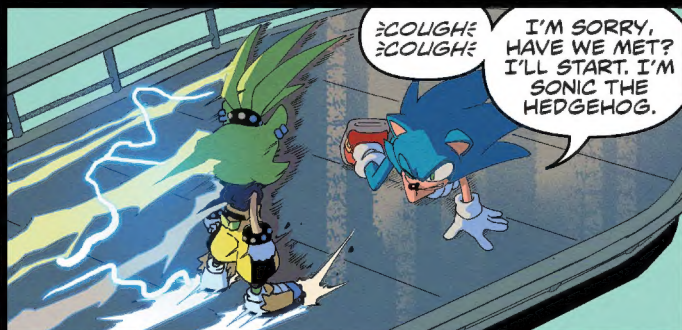
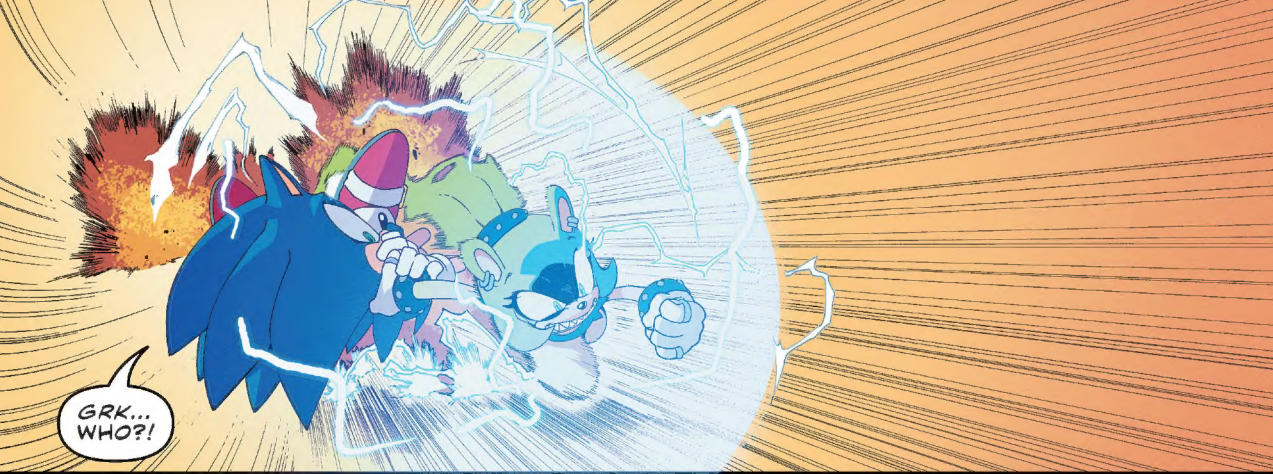


HOLD ON A SECOND! WHY AM I YOUR "TARGET"? THERE HAS TO BE A MISUNDERSTANDING!

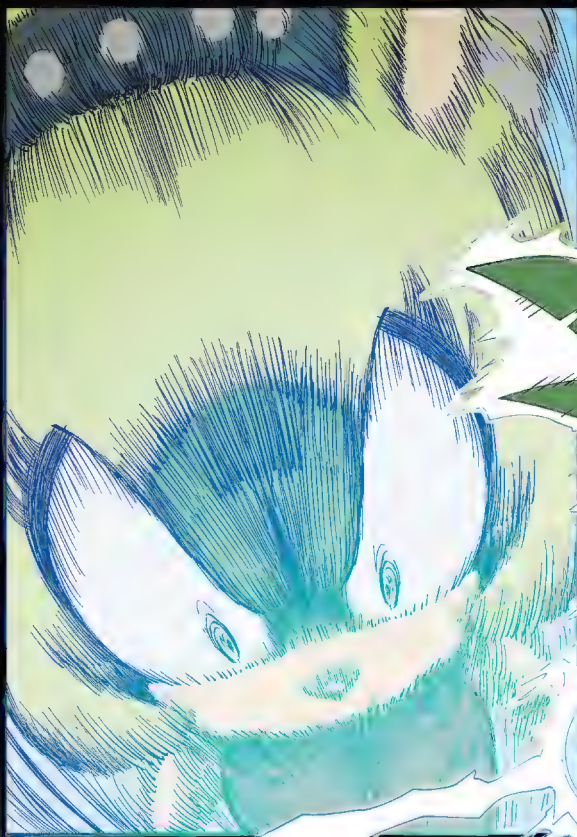
NO MISUNDERSTANDING. THIS IS ENTIRELY BY DESIGN.

IT TAKES APPROXIMATELY 118 MILLILITERS OF LIQUID AND 40 SECONDS TO DROWN.

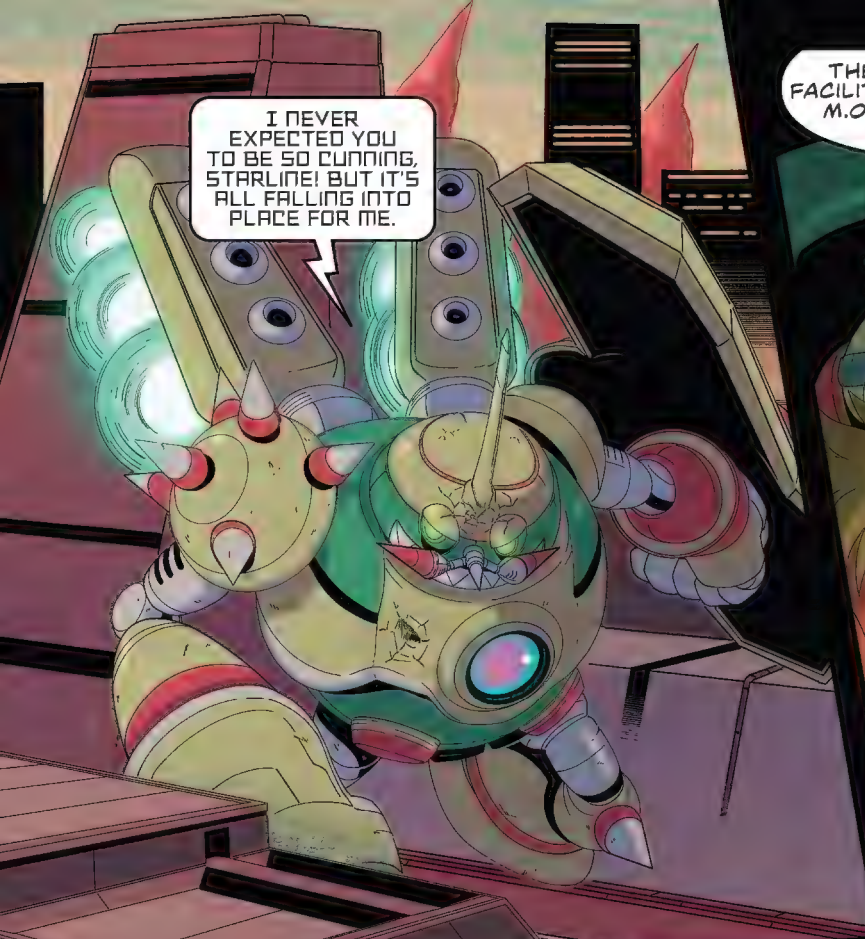













I NEVER EXPECTED YOU TO BE SO CUNNING, STARLINE! BUT IT'S ALL FALLING INTO PLACE FOR ME.



THE STRANGE RAIDS ON MY FACILITIES DIDN'T MATCH ZAVOK'S M.O. SO I LOOKED INTO HOW HE ESCAPED PRISON.


THE WARDEN HAD SOME CHOICE WORDS ABOUT YOUR INVOLVEMENT! SUCH BRAZEN VICIOUSNESS!*

*STH: BAD GUYS--EDS.




SO WHY ARE YOU HIDING NOW, YOU MISERABLE LITTLE SCUMBAG?!

DON'T PANIC--THINK! YOU'RE SO CLOSE! THIS CAN BE SALVAGED!



HE MUST HAVE HAD A QUICK ESCAPE ROUTE BUILT INTO THE COMMAND TOWER.

IF I TAKE THE HEIGHT OF THE TOWER, THE SPEED WITH WHICH HE COULD SAFELY ESCAPE, THE PREP TIME TO LAUNCH THAT MECHA AND FLY BACK TO THE TOWER...



"...THEN THE HANGAR MUST NOT BE TOO FAR AWAY! AND IF HE'S PILOTING THAT OLD CLUNKER, THEN HE MUST HAVE MORE IN STORAGE! ERGO..."

BLAST
IT ALL,
STARLINE!

DON'T
RETREAT TO FIGHT
ANOTHER DAY! HAVE
SOME DIGNITY AND
STAND YOUR GROUND
LONG ENOUGH FOR
ME TO ATOMIZE
YOU!

WHAT?!

SKYEW! SKYEW!
SKYEW!

KA-BOOM

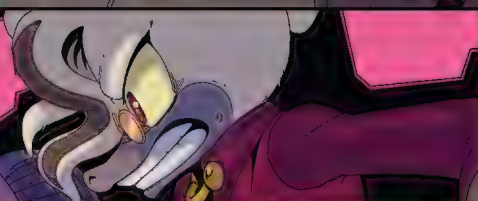
WHAT A
MARVELOUS
VINTAGE
ARMORY YOU
HAVE!





DOCTOR-
~~PLEASE~~-FOR
ONCE IN YOUR
LIFE JUST STOP
AND LISTEN!

MY PLAN WILL
WORK! AND THEN
THE WORLD WILL
BE OURS!



I DON'T
SHARE!

BOM



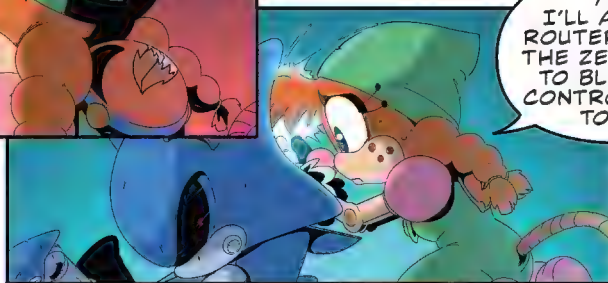
IF YOU *REALLY*
UNDERSTOOD ME,
YOU'D KNOW I
WON'T SETTLE FOR
LESS! IT'S ALL
OR NOTHING!

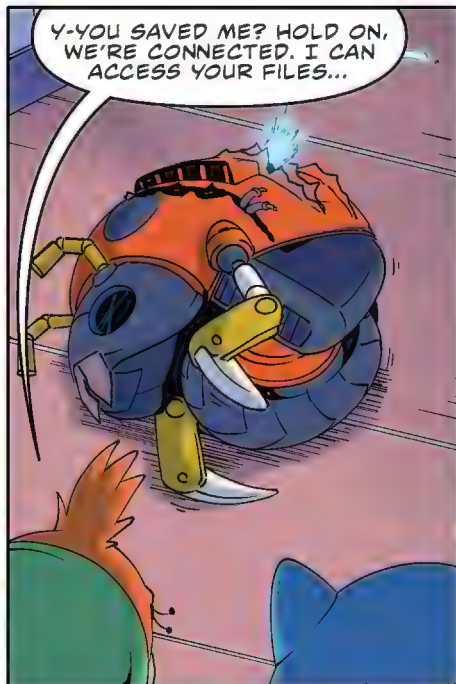
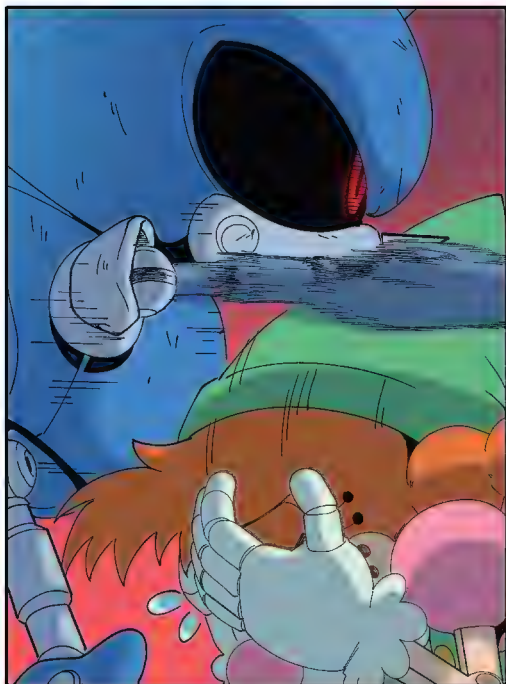


AND YOU
ARE *NOTHING*
BEFORE ME!

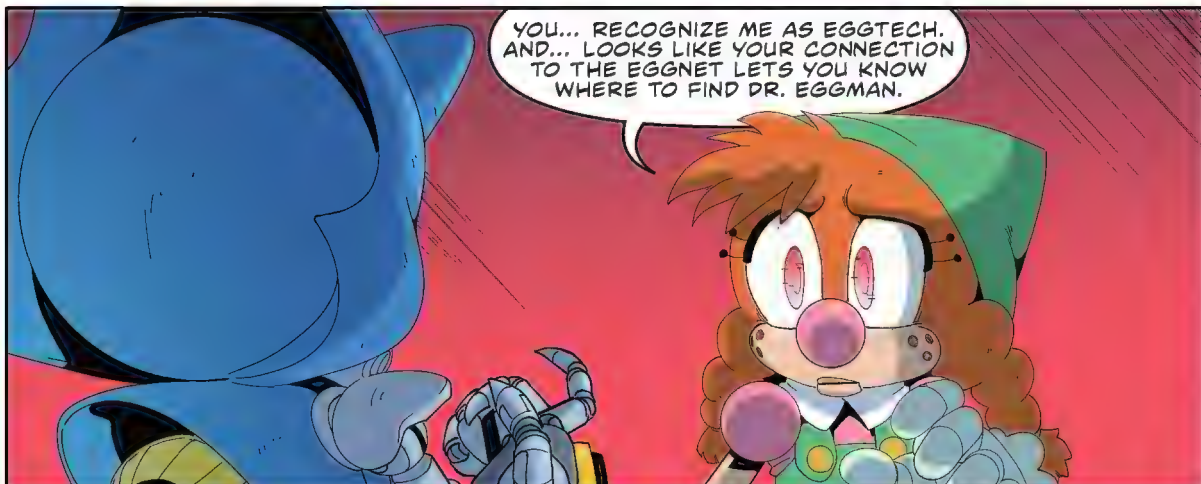


SMASH





Y-YOU SAVED ME? HOLD ON, WE'RE CONNECTED. I CAN ACCESS YOUR FILES...

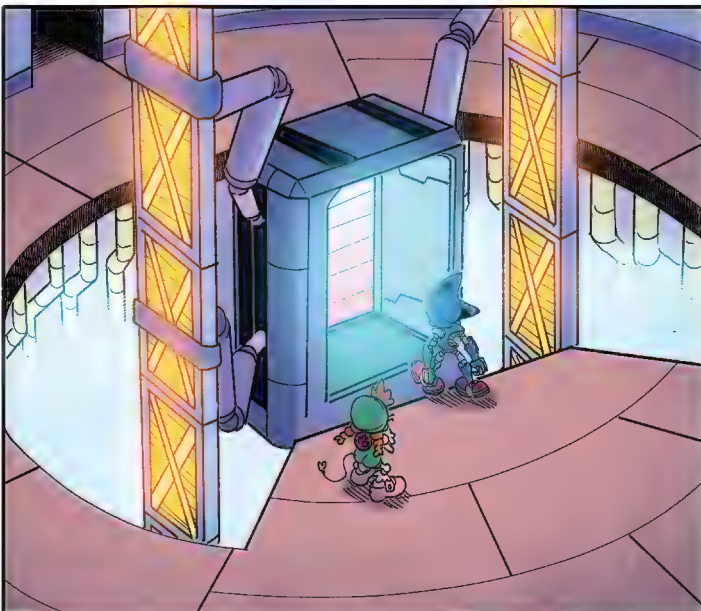


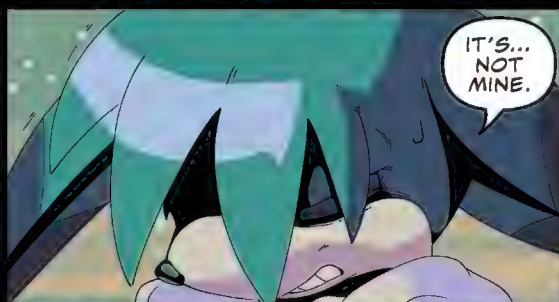
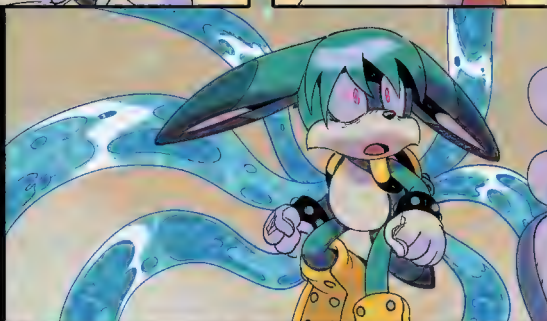
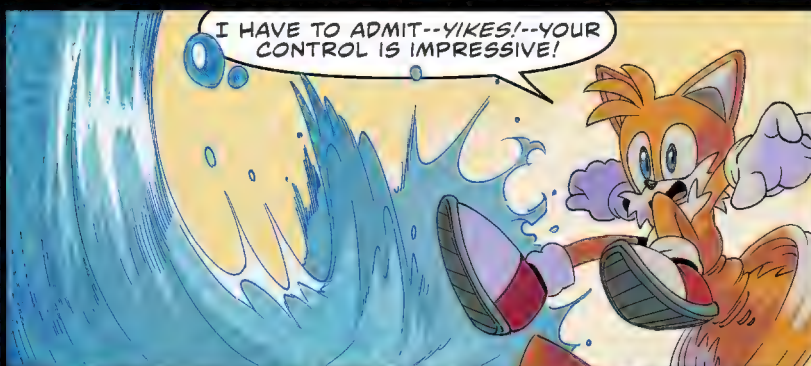
YOU... RECOGNIZE ME AS EGGTECH. AND... LOOKS LIKE YOUR CONNECTION TO THE EGGNET LETS YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND DR. EGGMAN.

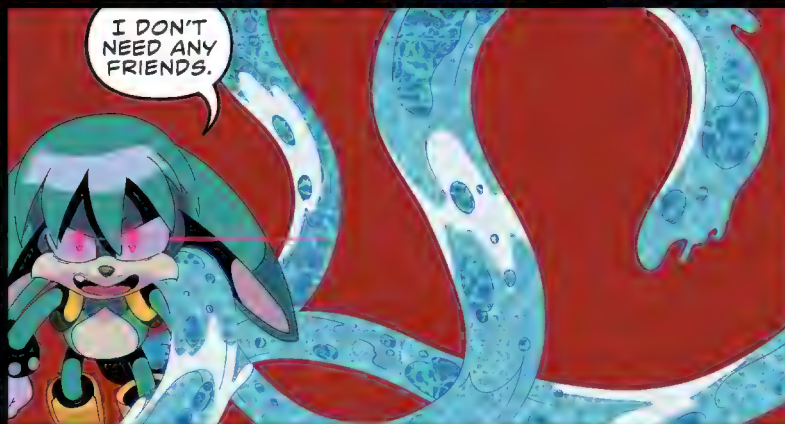
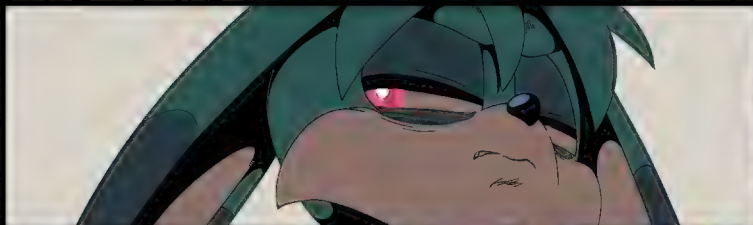


WELL... THIS IS IT, I GUESS. I CAME HERE FOR A REASON.

AND I CAN'T VERY WELL LET YOU GET OUT OF MY RANGE...









THAT'S
OKAY! I'M FINE
WITH COMPETITIVE
RIVALRY! CAN WE
WORK TOWARD
THAT?



DON'T...
DON'T ASK
ME WHAT I
WANT...

...S-SHE'S
NOT HERE
SO I DON'T...
I DON'T
KNOW!



HE'S VULNERABLE
BUT VOLATILE. I'VE
GOT TO HANDLE THIS
CAREFULLY...



MY THROAT IS GETTING
SORE FROM SHOUTING.
MAY I JOIN YOU?

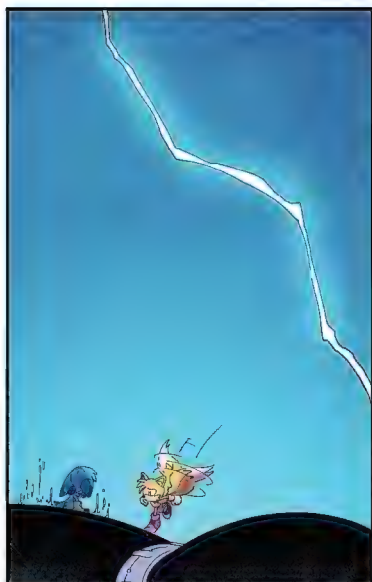
W-WHAT?

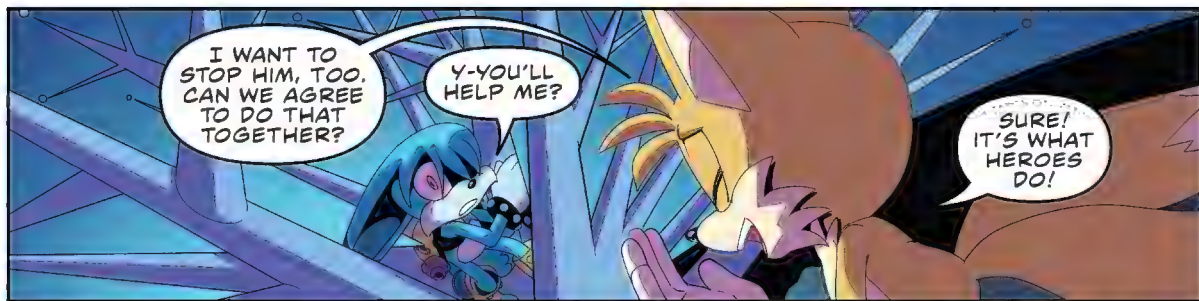


LET'S CALL A
TRUCE FOR NOW.
JUST UNTIL WE'VE
GOT THE FACTS
SORTED OUT.



I...
GUESS?
YOU... U/M...
SURE?









IT'S BEEN
A WHILE SINCE
I'VE TUSSLED
LIKE THIS!

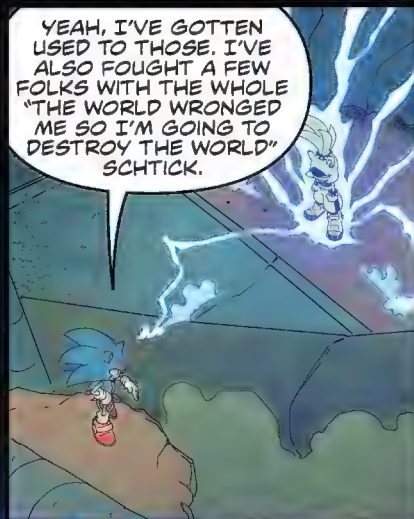
I HOPE
YOU'RE
HAVING FUN,
TOO!



"FUN"?



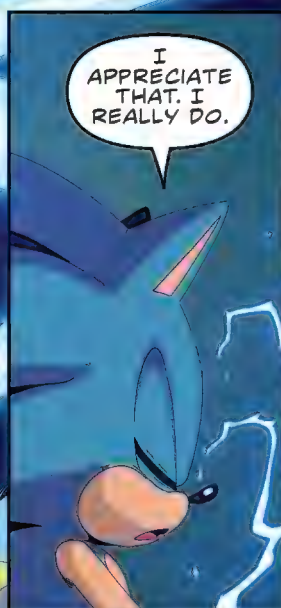
YOU'RE NOT
SUPPOSED
TO BE HAVING
"FUN"! THIS IS A
DUEL TO THE
DEATH!



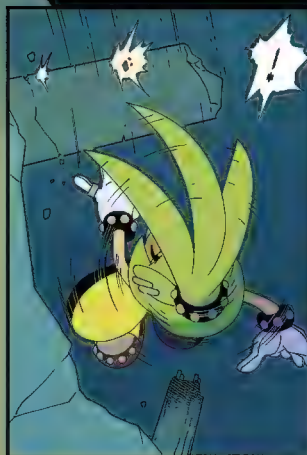
YEAH, I'VE GOTTEN
USED TO THOSE. I'VE
ALSO FOUGHT A FEW
FOLKS WITH THE WHOLE
"THE WORLD WRONGED
ME SO I'M GOING TO
DESTROY THE WORLD"
SCHTICK.

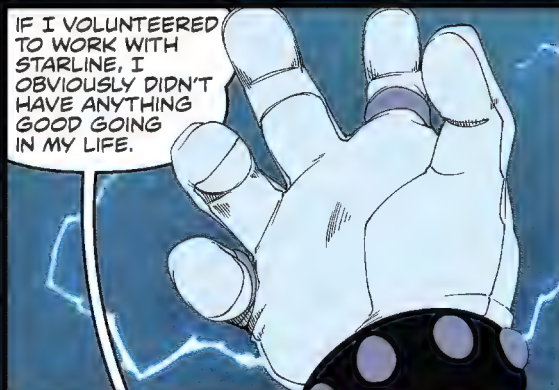
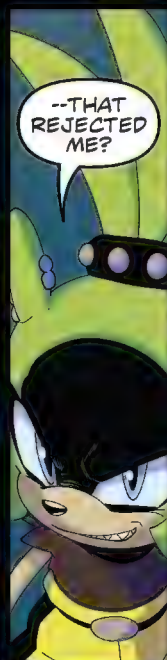


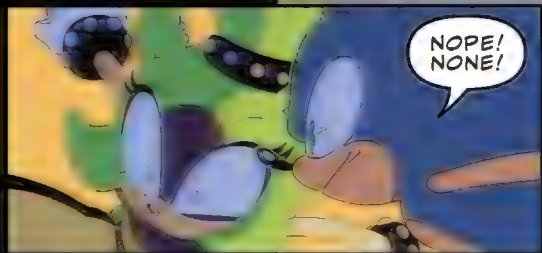
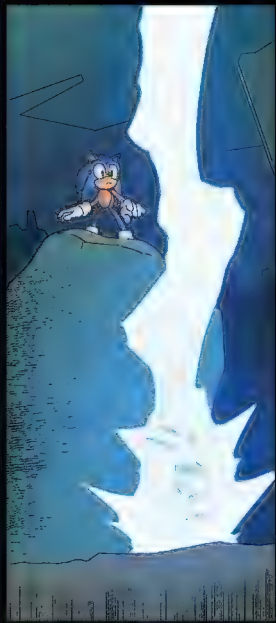
IT'S
NOT A
SCHTICK!
IT'S WHO
I AM!



I
APPRECIATE
THAT. I
REALLY DO.









I'M DOING
THIS FOR
YOU!



ALL
YOU'RE DOING
IS WASTING
MY TIME...



...WRECKING
MY STUFF...



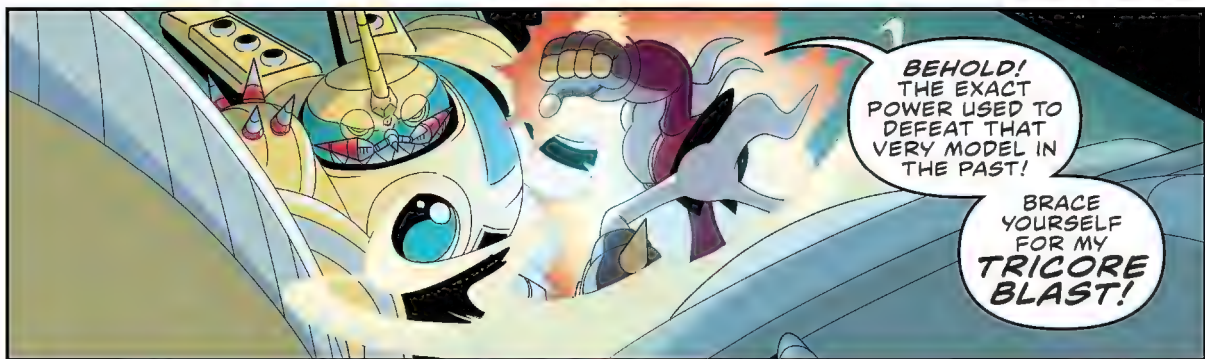
...AND
TICKING
ME OFF!



BRAVO,
SIR! I'M
THRILLED
YOU'RE STILL
THE SUPERIOR
MECHA
PILOT!



BUT YOU
CHOSE THE
WRONG
MACHINE TO
FACE ME!





NO,
DOCTOR...



...YOU
PLAYED
YOURSELF.

I
SPECIFICALLY
CHOSE THE EGG
EMPEROR ONCE I
REALIZED IT WAS
YOU WHO RAIDED
MY POWER CORE
RESERVES.



I KNEW YOUR
OBSESSION WITH MY
PAST EXPLOITS WOULD
GIVE YOU LOGICAL
TUNNEL VISION.

I KNEW YOU'D
USE THEIR POWER--
HOWEVER YOU'VE
UTILIZED IT--TO ITS
FULLEST EXTENT.

AND THUS,
I KNEW YOU'D
DEplete THAT
POWER JUST TO
MAKE YOUR
POINT.



OH
NO!



WELL
PLAYED,
SIR. I'M SO
GLAD...

...YOU'RE
SEEING THINGS
MY WAY!

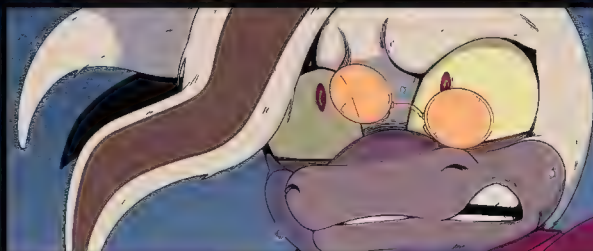




...WHY
AREN'T
YOU...

YOU TOLD ME **ALL**
ABOUT YOUR INVENTIONS,
REMEMBER? YOU WERE SO
VERY, VERY PROUD OF THAT
GLOVE IN PARTICULAR.

DID YOU
HONESTLY THINK
I'D LET YOU STAY BY
MY SIDE WITH **THAT**
KIND OF POWER ON HAND
WITHOUT TAKING SOME
PRECAUTIONS?



Y-YOU... ACTUALLY
LISTENED TO ME? B-BUT
YOU N-NEVER SAID...
ACKNOWLEDGED...

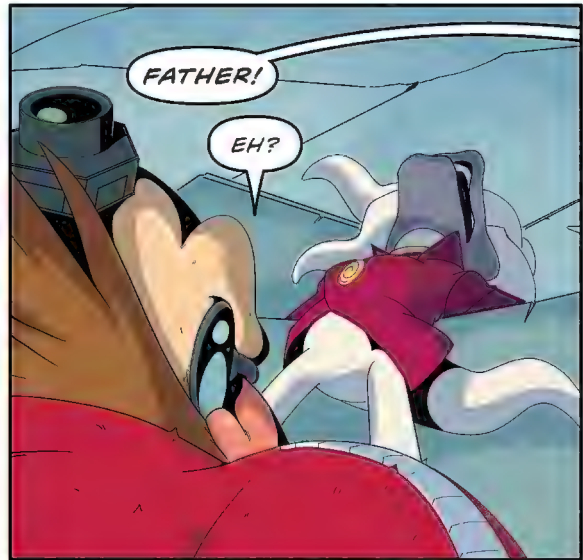
...**NO!** THIS
ISN'T FAIR!
YOU'VE NEVER
SHOWN THIS MUCH
FORESIGHT!



I'VE MADE MY MISTAKES. ONE
OF THEM WAS TOLERATING
YOU FOR THIS LONG.



I **REFUSE**
TO LOSE! NOT
WHEN I'M **THIS**
CLOSE!





I FOUND YOUR LETTER. THE ONE YOU WROTE AS MR. TINKER. BEFORE STARLINE RUINED OUR LIVES.

HE DOES MAKE A MESS OF THINGS, DOESN'T HE? PUTTING ME BACK INTO THE CORRECT FRAME OF MIND WASN'T ONE OF HIS MISTAKES, THOUGH.



I... KNOW THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL. AND I CAN'T CHANGE THAT. SO... SO...

...I'VE COME TO SAY GOODBYE. MY FATHER IS GONE. I HAVE... I HAVE TO MOVE ON.

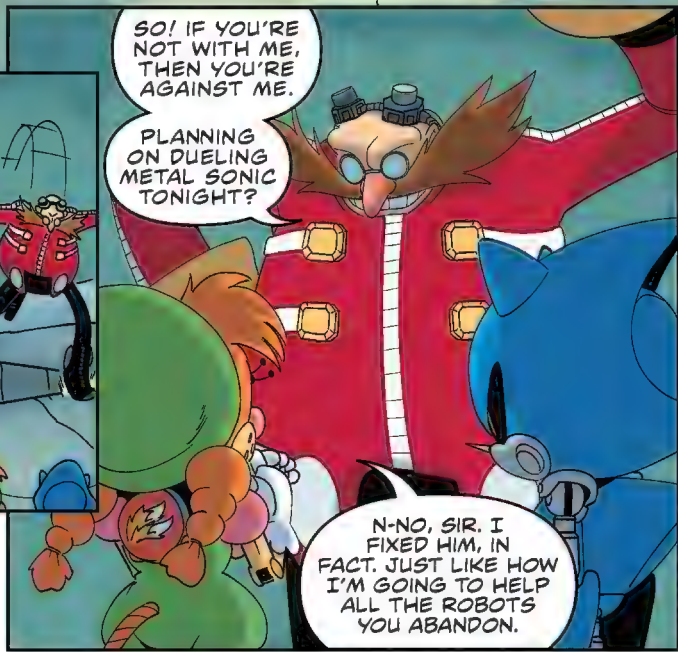
"FATHER" THIS AND "FATHER" THAT.

WHY ARE YOU BOTH SO BLASTED CLINGY?

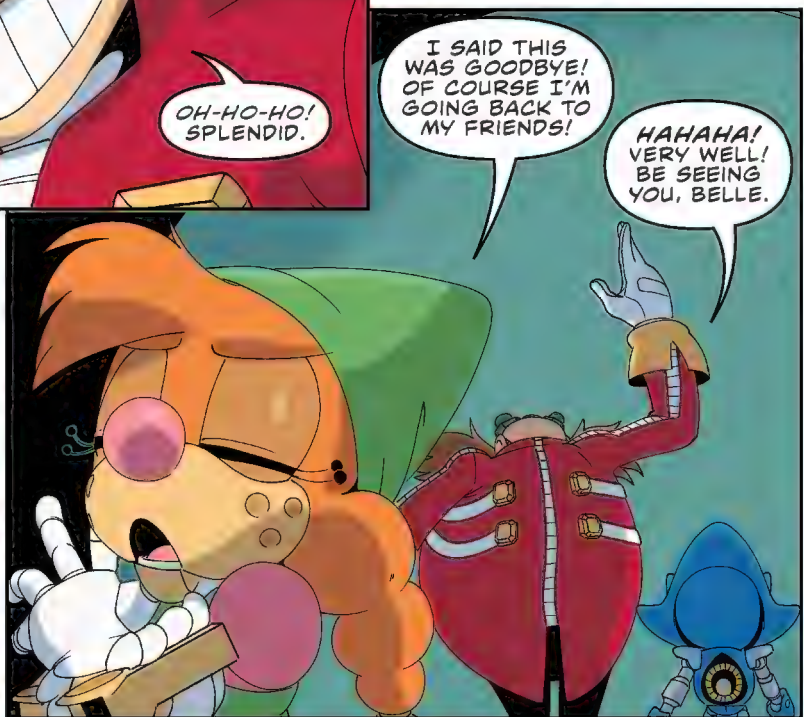
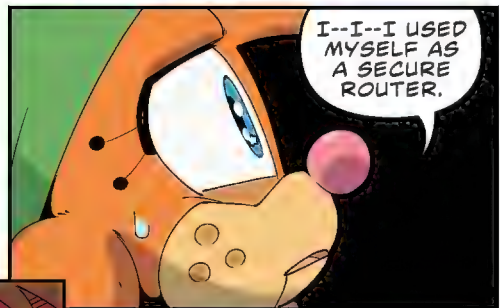
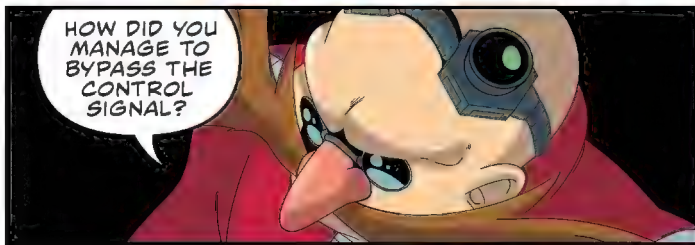


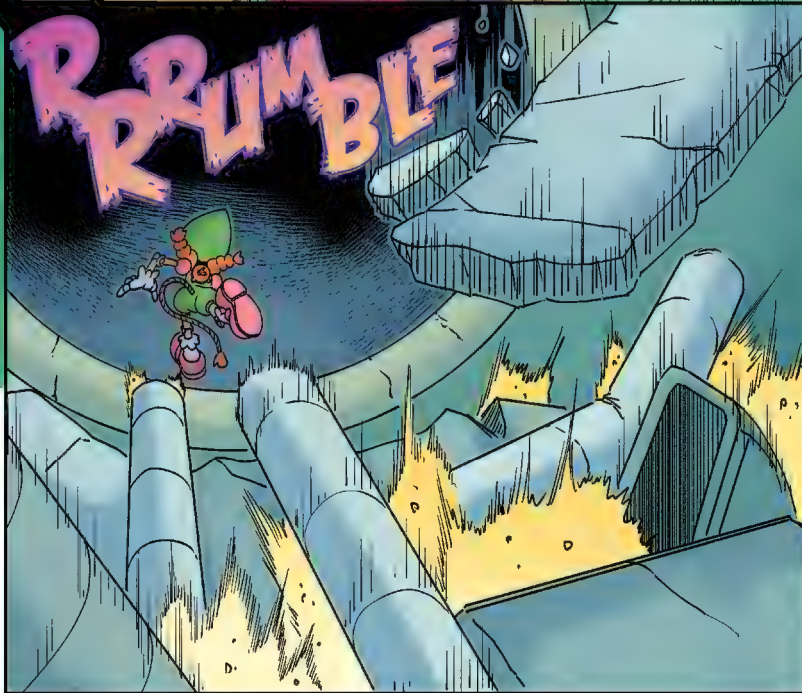
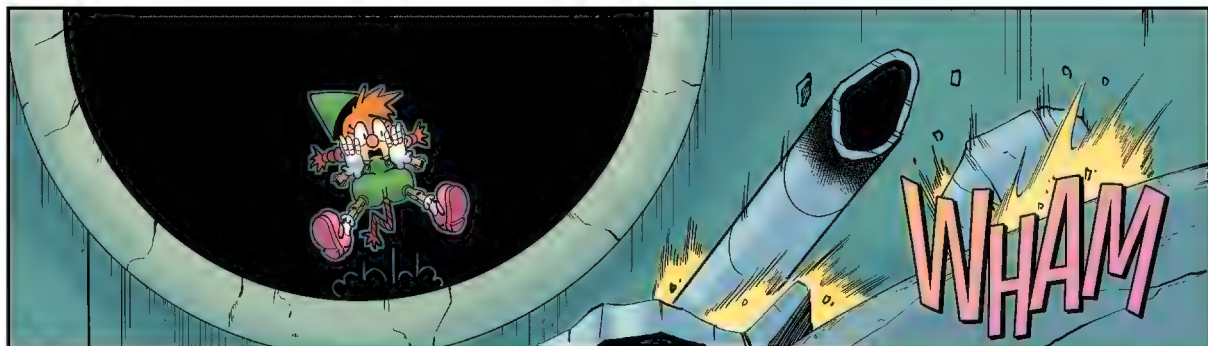
SO! IF YOU'RE NOT WITH ME, THEN YOU'RE AGAINST ME.

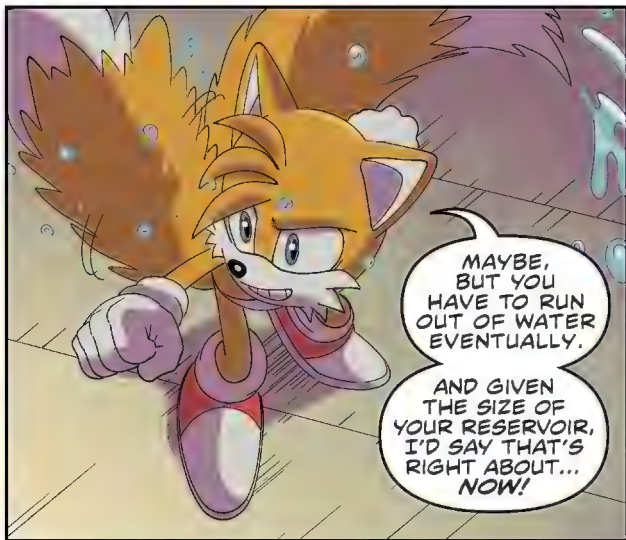
PLANNING ON DUELING METAL SONIC TONIGHT?

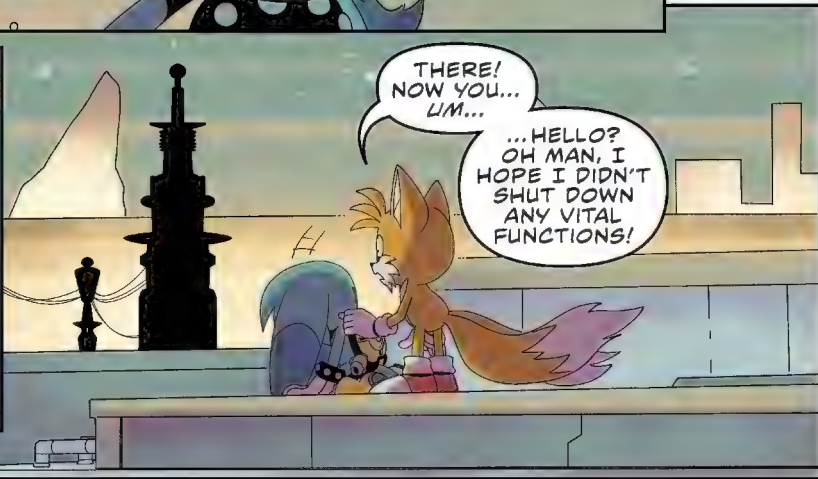
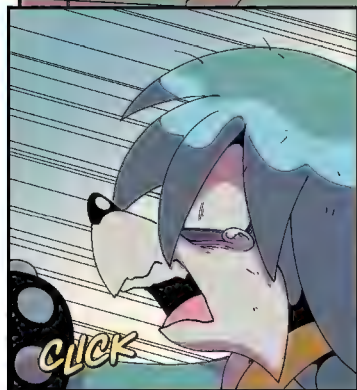


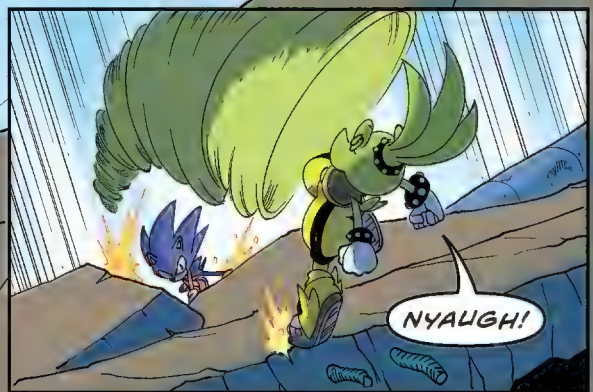
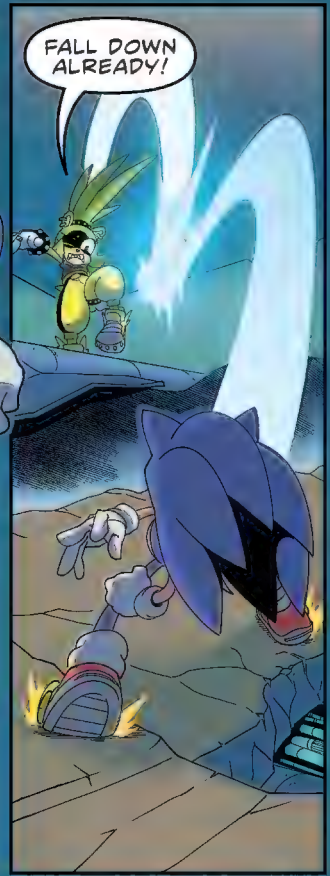
N-N-O, SIR. I FIXED HIM, IN FACT. JUST LIKE HOW I'M GOING TO HELP ALL THE ROBOTS YOU ABANDON.

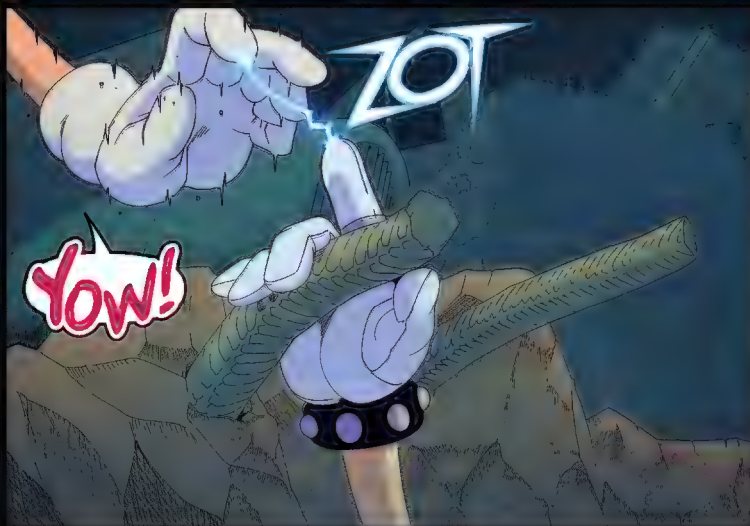
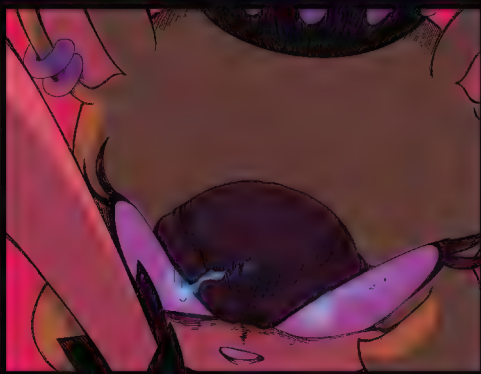


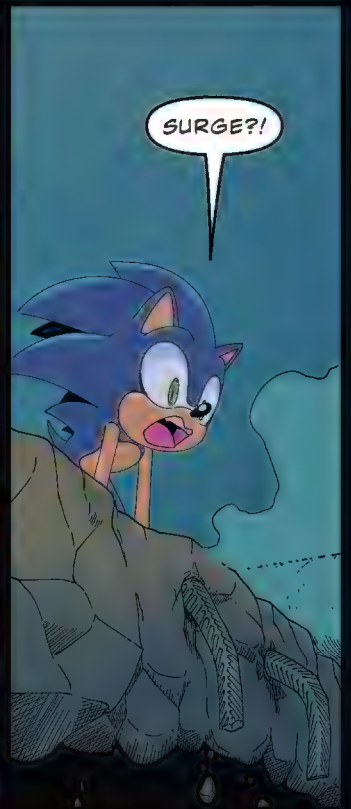
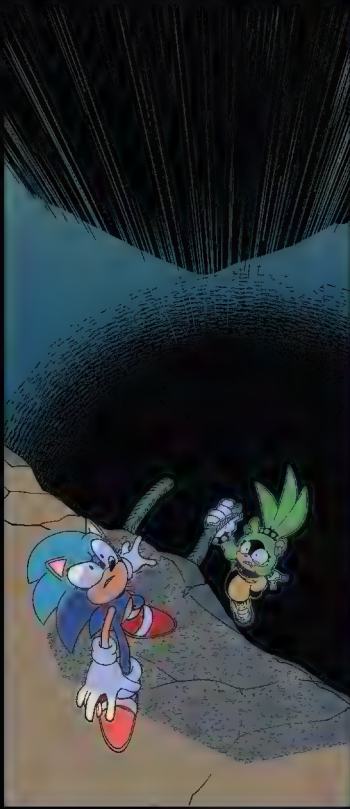


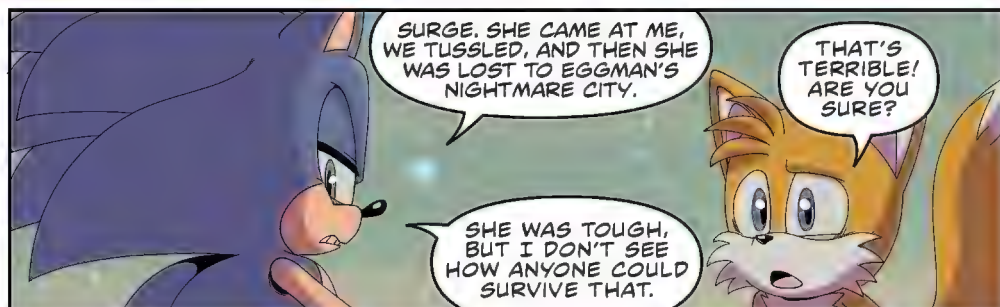
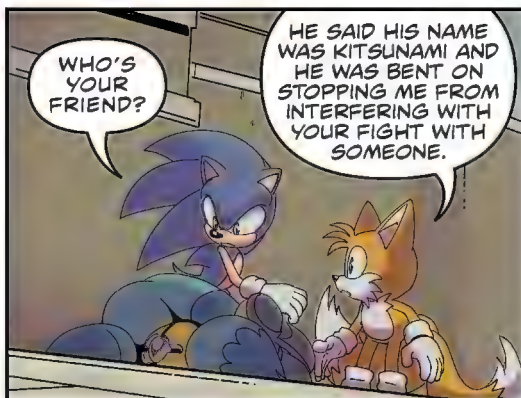














HOW DID YOU KEEP THAT BADNIK FROM ATTACKING YOU?

HOLD ON! FIRST, WHERE IS METAL SONIC?



I GOT HIM UP AND RUNNING AGAIN.

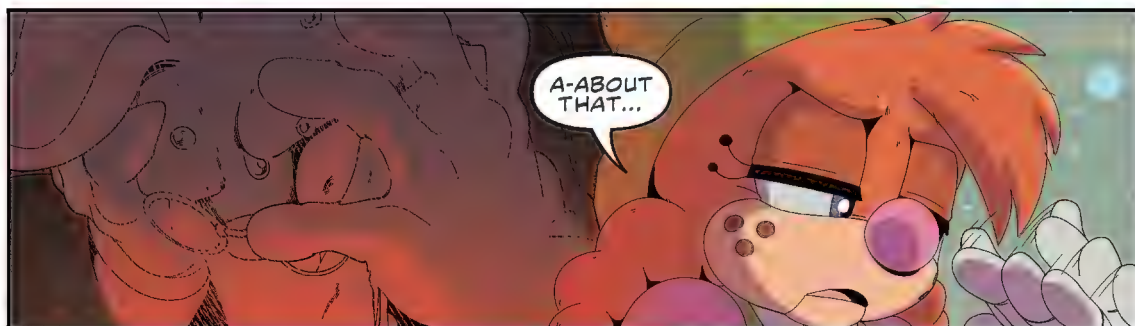
HE WENT BACK TO EGGMAN AND THEY... LEFT.



AS FOR THE BADNIK? I DON'T KNOW. I MODIFIED IT NOT TO ATTACK YOU GUYS, BUT IT WAS WEIRDLY FRIENDLY TO ME.

I'M PRETTY SURE DR. STARLINE IS BEHIND ALL THIS. HE'S WHO SENT KITSUNAMI AND SURGE, AT LEAST.

AGAIN WITH THAT GUY. WELL, WE'LL KICK HIS BUTT, TOO.



A-ABOUT THAT...



ATTENTION, SONIC AND TAILS! I'M AFRAID YOU'VE CAUGHT ME AT AN AWKWARD MOMENT!



MY EGGPERIAL CITY WASN'T READY FOR VISITORS, AND THEN THE LATE DR. STARLINE JUST HAD TO MAKE A MESS OF THE PLACE.

NEVERTHELESS, YOU ARE GUESTS IN MY HOME, AND I MUST BE A GRACIOUS HOST! SO PLEASE, ALLOW ME AND MY LUDICROUSLY MASSIVE SWARM OF BADNIKS...



...TO SHOW YOU A
PROPER WELCOME!

**NEXT TIME:
ESCAPE FROM
THE EMPIRE!**

SONIC

LETTERS SQUAD



Greetings, Sonic Squad! WHOA! That was INTENSE. Surge met Sonic, and Kit met Tails, and Starline finally got to face off with Eggman... I think I need to lie down. Thank you for joining Ian Flynn, Adam Bryce Thomas, Matt Herms, Heather Breckel, Reggie Grabam, and Shawn Lee for the "Battle for the Empire." They did an amazing job! Now, let's check out your letters and art!

Hello. My name is Fox, and I am 16 years old. I originally became a Sonic fan after I heard a remix of the "Studiopolis Act 1" theme song. I started listening to the soundtrack for *Sonic Mania*, and I have since wanted to play it. Then, a lunar new year sale occurred on Steam, and I bought *Sonic Mania* along with *Sonic Generations* and *Forces*. I found *Sonic Forces* to be my favorite because of the story and music. After playing the games, I read the comics, and I think the new characters are my favorite characters (along with Sonic and Shadow), and I think that the future Sonic movies need Tangle, Belle, and Starline at the very least. I'm not normally a fan of stories that center around friendship, but I thought the *Tangle and Whisper* volume was really cool. I also think



Starline is a better villain than Eggman because his antics are far more varied than Eggman's robot-centric attacks. I drew the two doctors, Eggman and Starline, in the Chemical Plant Zone because I feel that CPZ represents the doctors quite well, and it looks cool (I was in a hurry to get this in for the big 50th issue so I used tracing for Starline and most of Eggman, but I colored the characters and drew CPZ without tracing). I look forward to seeing the big showdown in the 50th issue, and I think I know who will win. While I wait, I will work on my fan fiction and go through some of the later issues of this series to make sure I am up to speed.

My question is, will any of the comic characters like Tangle, Whisper, or Dr. Starline be used in the movies?

Another question: how do you come up with these new characters and story arcs?

Hello, Fox,

Thank you for your letter and art! I love hearing everyone's favorite parts of the Sonic franchise. I would love to see IDW original characters in the movies! Seeing Tangle's tail in action on the big screen would be AMAZING. Maybe once they introduce all the video game characters?

To answer a few of your other questions: When planning new arcs, authors draw inspiration from the franchise's past, their own lives, or other art, in order to discover new ways to challenge the characters. So for the Trial by Fire arc, Evan really wanted to tell a story about wildfires because that's something she's been affected by. New story arcs often come from the author asking themselves where they'd



like to see the story and characters progress, and then figuring out how to get there. And new characters are created to fill a role that the current cast can't fill, to tell an interesting story, or to shake up the plot. When it comes to the actual character design, the artist draws inspiration from the art style of the series and the character's personality.

Hope you enjoyed #50!

Hi, guys.

First I just wanted to say that I've been absolutely loving the comic so far, and I can't wait for issue 50. I'm a pretty new Sonic fan, having only really gotten into it after watching the two amazing movies, but my obsession has quickly grown and I've been consuming everything Sonic I can get my hands on. I have one question: is my boy Knuckles going to make an appearance again anytime soon? I've loved how he's been written in this run so far. He's probably my favourite character, but we haven't seen him in a while. Perhaps Blaze might come back soon as well? I feel like we could all use a little more of everyone's favourite fire-wielding cat in our lives.

Keep up the great work!

Josh

Hi, Josh!

I'm so glad to hear that the movies got you into



the comics! It's fun to see all the hype around Sonic at the moment. You'll have to catch up on the animated shows next!

Knuckles was in the Free Comic Book Day issue that came out in May! And he will be in the 2022 Annual, as will Blaze. They're both really fun characters, so I hope we get to see them more, too. I'll see what I can do about that...

Thanks for joining us, Squad. Don't forget to send your art and letters to letters@idwpublishing.com, and make sure to mark them "OKAY TO PRINT"! And join the IDW Sonic Comics Squad on Facebook! Next month, check out issue #51 to see if Sonic, Tails, and Belle can make it safely out of the city...

NEXT MONTH



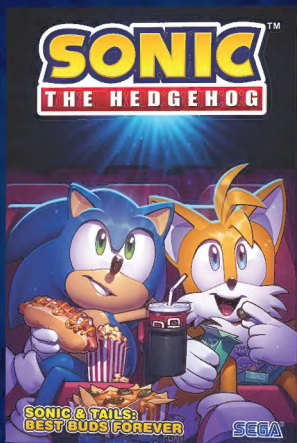
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